

#EYEGETDILATED



LEANNE, EDMONTON, AB

"CANCER. The word strikes fear into the hearts of millions, but most people have never heard of eye cancer. I certainly had not, until January 30, 2017. Around that time, I had started to notice white "flashes" in my left eye. I decided to visit my optometrist to get his advice. At my appointment, he noticed something of concern and referred me to a retina specialist the following week. My eyes were thoroughly examined, including a dilated eye exam, and at the end of a long visit, the ophthalmologist sat me down and told me that there was a melanoma tumour in my eye – *I had cancer.*

I was referred to an ocular oncologist and a flurry of activity ensued. Just five weeks later, I had brachytherapy treatment, which involved a radiated "plaque" being surgically attached to my eye at the tumour site for five days. The treatment was successful, and over time, the tumour has shrunk and died. As a result of the radiation, I have lost clear vision in my eye, but I am grateful that my eye could be preserved.

Ocular melanoma is a rare and dangerous cancer. Even with successful brachytherapy treatment, more than 50% of patients have metastasis. If this happens, there is no effective treatment available. The risk of metastasis is lower for smaller tumours, so early detection is very important.

Nearly four years after my diagnosis, I am profoundly grateful that I have remained healthy. I've made it my mission to raise awareness about the importance of eye health. I urge everyone to get a regular dilated eye exam and to pay attention to any changes in vision. Your life could depend on it."

MISSING A CHECK?

Ask your Optometrist about the importance of early detection of Ocular Melanoma

optometrists.ab.ca Alberta Association of Optometrists 

- Doctor
- Dentist
- Dermatologist
- Dilated Eye Exam

For more information contact ocumelcanada@saveyourskin.ca | 1-800-460-5832